



# CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary -Treasurer  
Connecticut AFLCIO before the  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
February 7, 2013

Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee my name is Lori Pelletier and I am the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFLCIO representing 900 affiliated local unions who's members live in each and every city and town in our state.

**I am here to testify in opposition to H.B. No. 5277 AN ACT LEGALIZING AND REGULATING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS. (PS).**

We oppose this bill on two levels. First and we have discussed this with you before that the owners of MMA's Ultimate Fight Championship (UFC) are bad citizens when it comes to recognizing workers right to assemble freely. We appreciate the potential for events because our affiliates' members work in the venues where these take place. However, the people involved with the MMA world have created many problems for members of the Nevada AFLCIO and we cannot in good conscience condone there actions by supporting this bill. With nearly 80 Unfair Labor Practices, clearly these owners are not responsible partners.

Imagine if you we proposing a bill to regulate and allow hate speech, or physical assault. Well that's what you are doing. The world of MMA which may be exciting and entertaining to some, is demeaning to many. Women, and those in the LGBT community are often the brunt of slurs and comments used to further the competitive neater of these events.

In just the past few months the United States Marine Corp disaffiliated with the UFC because of their blatant disregard for human decency and respect. In today's world, violence, hate crimes and bullying are playing a huge role in the life of our youth and young adults. As a State we should not be condoning this type of entertainment. Let's stand up to both corporate bullying and bullying as a form of entertainment and tell those who push this to change their ways before we amend our statutes.

This general assembly will spend many hours looking at result of violence whether it's from video games, movies, or sports. Even institutions like the NFL, NHL, and major league soccer are working with their respective player unions to ensure the sport is safe for players and that there is a level of respect towards our communities. When an NFL player was asked about the idea of next year's super bowl being outside in a cold weather stadium he responded with hateful adjective. The NFL immediately responded and the player apologized.

UFC continues to remain silent to their "athletes" hateful comments and racial slurs. We have enough violence in our society, and we explore the committee to reject this form of hate for its entertainment value.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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